

Tennessee's East Region's Economy | 2022

 <p>Employment</p>	<p>Total Nonfarm Employment 2022: 1,097,691 0.9% 2021: 1,088,055 Strong</p>	<p>New Jobs 2022: 9,636 2021: 41,175 Strong</p>	<p>MSA Employment 2021-2022 Chattanooga: 4.0% Knoxville: 4.6%</p>
 <p>Employers</p>	<p>Total Number of Establishments 2022: 67,643 62,777 Strong</p>	<p>Total Payroll 2022: \$58.1B 2021: \$53.2B Strong</p>	<p>Counties that Increased Employment 2022: 29 2021: 32 Strong</p>
 <p>Wages & Income</p>	<p>Average Annual Wage 2022: \$56,372 2021: \$46,124 Strong</p>	<p>East Median Wage 2022: \$38,532 2021: \$35,525 Strong</p>	<p>Average Hourly Wages - Production Workers 2022: \$20.42 2021: \$18.65 Strong</p>
 <p>Labor Force & Demographics</p>	<p>Unemployment Rate 2022: 3.4% 2021: 4.3% Strong</p>	<p>Labor Force 2022: 1,136,578 2021: 1,042,879</p>	<p>Unemployment Rates Youth 2021: 10.6% % In Poverty, 2021: 15.3% Strong</p>
 <p>Job Outlook</p>	<p>Ratio of Unemployed to Job Openings June 2023: 0.85 June 2022: 1.55 Strong</p>	<p>Projected Annual Growth Rate, All Occupations 2020-2030: 1.6%</p>	<p>Projected Job Openings 2020-2030: 182,369</p>

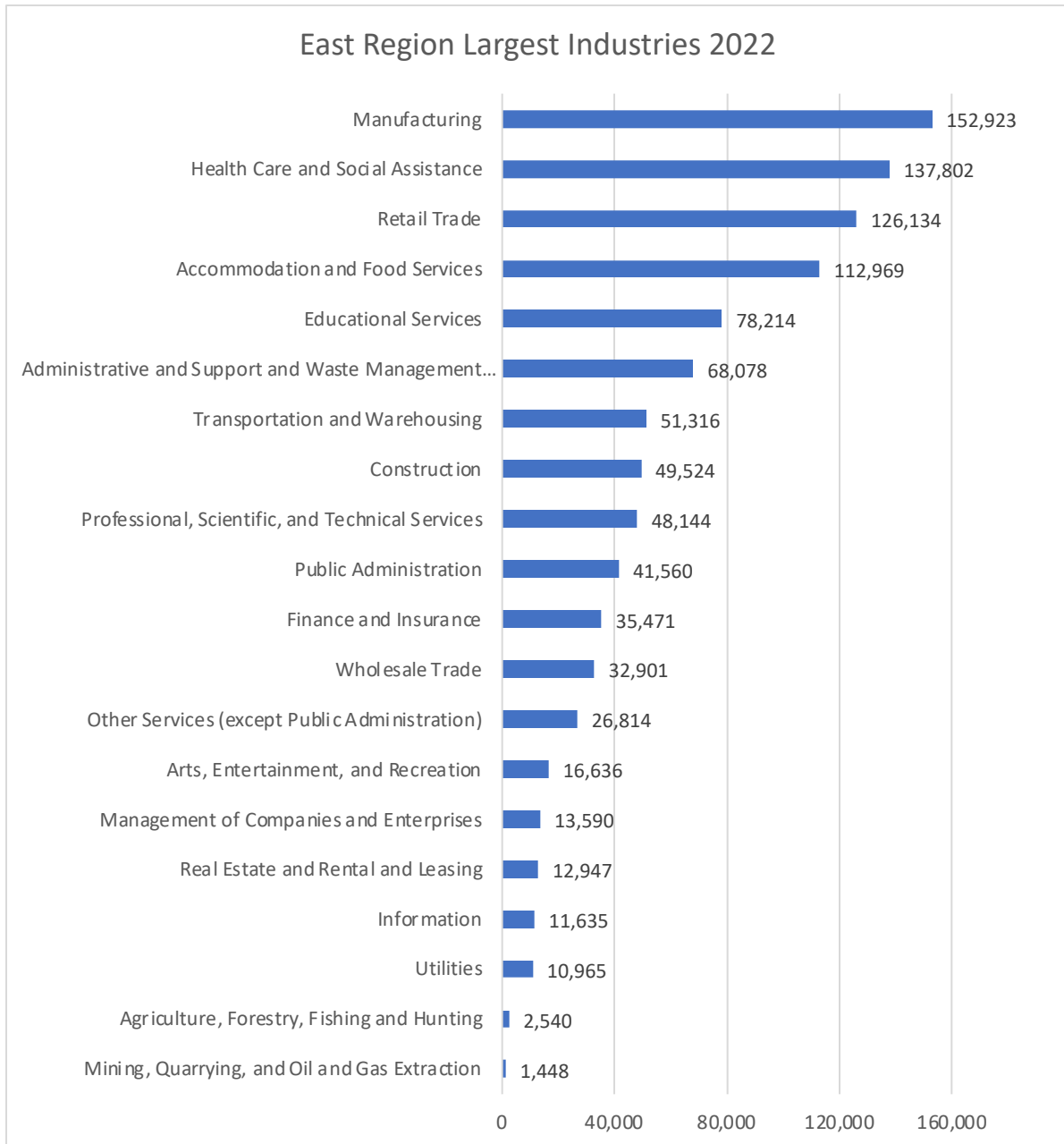


Figure 22

Source: TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development, WIR²ED Division, QCEW, August 2023

East Region's Economy, 2021-2022

Total employment in the East Region, excluding agriculture and the self-employed, increased from 1,088,055 in 2021 to 1,097,691 in 2022. Overall unemployment for the region decreased from 4.3 to 3.4, the same as the yearly average for the state. The two large metropolitan statistical areas in the Region, Chattanooga and Knoxville, increased employment.

The East Region consists of three Local Workforce Development Areas: Northeast, Southeast, and East, encompassing a total of 34 counties. Of these, 29 counties increased employment compared to 34 the year prior. This is an expected pattern as the year prior was a year of recovery for the Tennessee economy. The average number of establishments increased to 67,643 over the year and payroll increased by 9.2 percent to \$58.1 billion.

The average annual industry wage in the region, calculated by dividing the total payroll by the average number of workers, increased by over 20 percent to \$56,372 from \$46,124. The median occupational wage increased by 8.5 percent to \$38,532, which is slightly below the state's median.

As previously mentioned, the average unemployment rate decreased from 2021 to 2022 to 3.4 percent, which equals the state annual average. The labor force increased over the year by over 80,000 persons. Youth unemployment in 2021 (the latest data available) is slightly lower compared to the state rate of 11.4 percent. The percent of those in poverty was stable at 15.3 percent, below the state rate, and lower for the East Region last year.

To summarize: In 2022 compared to 2021, the East Region saw growth in employment, and an improvement in unemployment from the year prior to match the state's unemployment rate. Payroll increased at nearly the same rate for the East Region as for the rest of the state. The level of the annual average industry wage increased by more than 20 percent, and the median occupational wage also saw significant growth. Expansion of health care as well as electric vehicle and battery manufacturing will continue to add to skill requirements and employment in the region.

East TN Industries and Occupations (2018-2022)

Total employment in the East Region in 2022, excluding self-employed and agricultural workers, was 1,097,671. The five largest industry sectors in 2022 were:

- Manufacturing (152,923)
- Health care and social assistance (137,802)
- Retail (126,134)
- Accommodation and food services (112,969)
- Educational services (78,214)

Compared to 2018, the industries adding the most workers included the manufacturing (10,556), professional, scientific, and technical (7,641), and transportation and warehousing (5,203) industries. One of the largest industries, Healthcare and Social Assistance, has yet to regain its pre-pandemic level of employment. Despite showing negative growth from previously, accommodation and food services and educational services have reported growth in their industries surpassing 2018 levels. All except one industry sector increased its earnings per worker (total LWDA payroll divided by the average number of workers). The largest increases were in the accommodation and food services, administration and support, and real estate and rental and leasing. The industries with the highest earnings per worker were the management of companies and enterprises, utilities, and professional, scientific, and technical industries. The lowest earnings per worker were in the accommodations and food services industry.

East Tennessee Local Workforce Development Areas and Counties

Northeast Tennessee LWDA

Carter	Johnson
Greene	Sullivan
Hancock	Unicoi
Hawkins	Washington

East Tennessee LWDA

Anderson	Knox
Blount	Loudon
Campbell	Monroe
Claiborne	Morgan
Cocke	Roane
Grainger	Scott
Hamblen	Sevier
Jefferson	Union

Southeast Tennessee LWDA

Bledsoe	McMinn
Bradley	Meigs
Grundy	Polk
Hamilton	Rhea
Marion	Sequatchie



Figure 23

Source: TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development, WIR²ED Division, QCEW, August 2023

Table 27: East Region Among Largest Percent Change in Jobs Include Professional Scientific and Technical Services, Real Estate and Transportation and Warehousing

East Region Industries	2018 Jobs	2022 Jobs	Change in Jobs	% Change in Jobs	2018 Earnings Per Worker	2022 Earnings Per Worker	% Change in Earnings Per Worker
Manufacturing	142,367	152,923	10,556	7%	59,727.09	69,135.13	16%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	40,503	48,144	7,641	19%	75,191.72	90,187.79	20%
Transportation and Warehousing	46,113	51,316	5,203	11%	50,320.44	62,903.07	25%
Construction	44,475	49,524	5,049	11%	52,471.84	64,905.78	24%
Retail Trade	121,429	126,134	4,705	4%	29,007.30	36,675.97	26%
Wholesale Trade	30,613	32,901	2,288	7%	65,245.57	81,989.26	26%
Accommodation and Food Services	110,727	112,969	2,242	2%	18,320.81	24,134.55	32%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	11,483	12,947	1,464	13%	43,906.13	56,284.24	28%
Finance and Insurance	34,168	35,471	1,303	4%	66,100.66	83,418.59	26%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	15,925	16,636	711	4%	23,025.39	28,558.26	24%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	2,026	2,540	514	25%	34,515.54	34,548.07	0%
Utilities	10,585	10,965	380	4%	91,079.15	104,450.04	15%
Educational Services	77,868	78,214	346	0%	42,487.89	49,287.13	16%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	67,764	68,078	314	0%	34,926.63	45,032.63	29%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1,464	1,448	-16	-1%	62,257.03	79,293.95	27%
Public Administration	41,807	41,560	-247	-1%	47,901.65	56,070.37	17%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	27,077	26,814	-263	-1%	31,951.61	40,746.77	28%
Information	12,274	11,635	-639	-5%	78,303.38	86,057.59	10%
Health Care and Social Assistance	138,873	137,802	-1,071	-1%	50,471.24	60,404.24	20%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	16,166	13,590	-2,576	-16%	85,520.25	103,722.62	21%

Source: TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development, QCEW Annual Averages, 2018 and 2022

East Region Occupational Employment

The office and administrative support occupational group remains the largest in the East Region, according to the Occupational Employment and Wages Survey for 2022, which provides data on all industries except agriculture and the self-employed. Employment in this group in May 2022 was 142,0410; however, it decreased by 10% between 2015 and 2022. Transportation and material moving, production, and food preparation and serving were next largest in total numbers of jobs. Occupational groups which added the most jobs from 2015 to 2022 included transportation and material moving, business and finance, construction and extraction, and production. Office and administrative support, sales and related, and personal care and service occupations lost the most jobs over the seven- year period. Other than management, the occupational groups with the highest median earnings included architecture and engineering, computer and mathematical, life, physical and social science, and legal occupations. These earnings results show the importance of STEM education and training in achieving higher earnings.

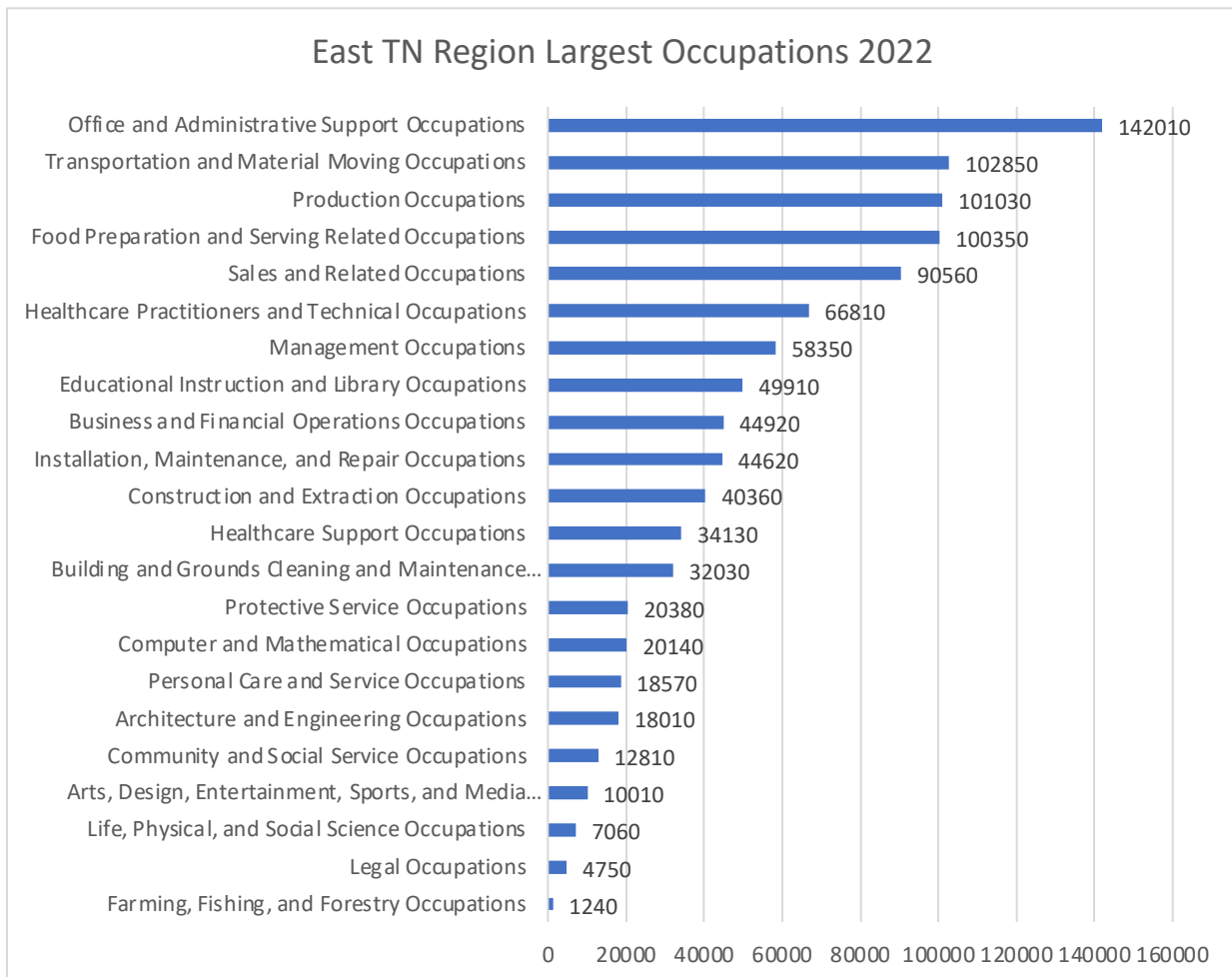
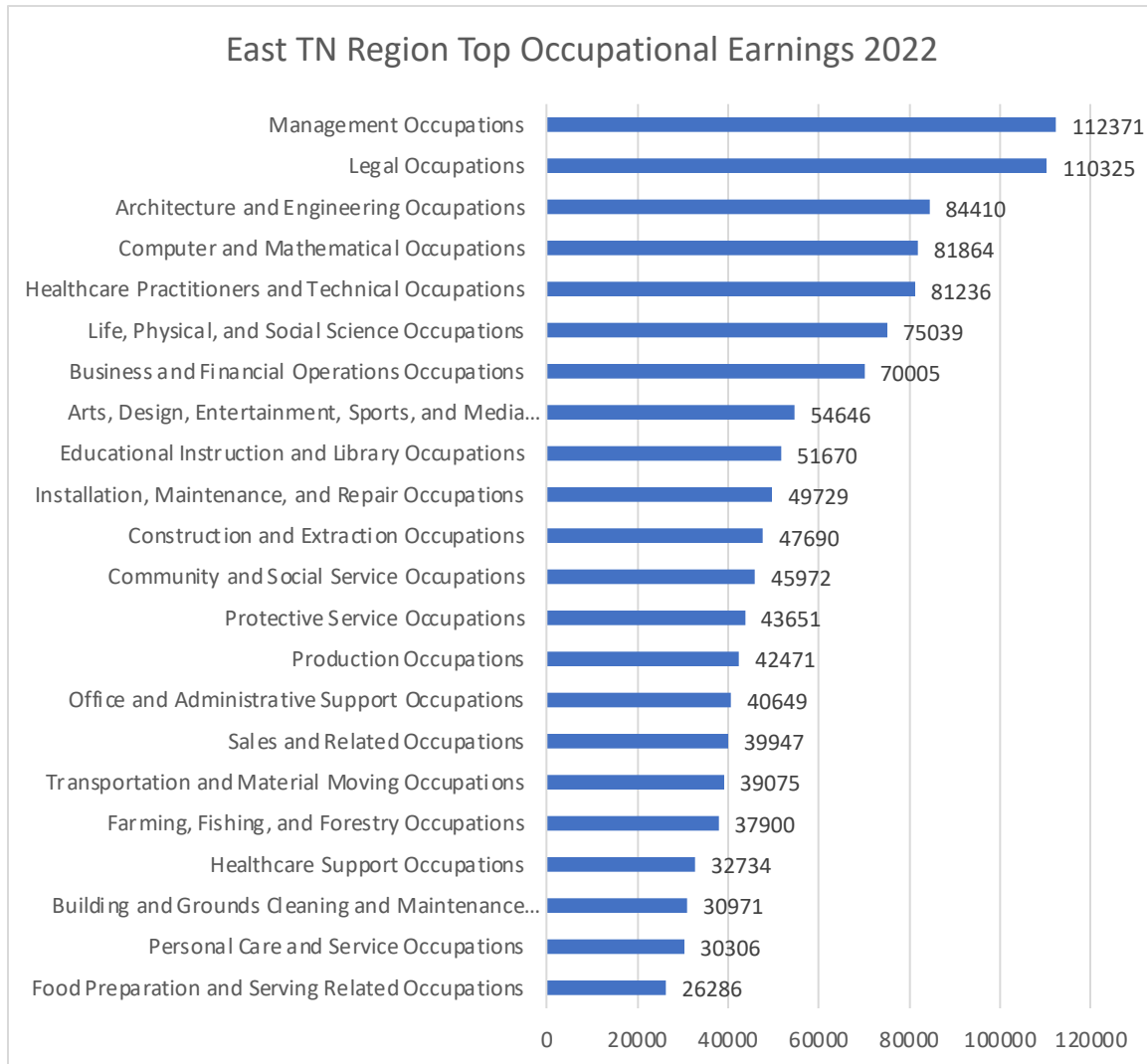


Figure 24

Source: TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development, WIR²ED Division, OEWS, May 2022

**Figure 25**

Source: TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development, WIR²ED Division, OEWS, May 2022

The TDLWD jobs4tn.gov web site tracks the top in-demand job certifications and tools and technologies from its advertised jobs database, updated every day. The table below shows the most requested certifications, including nursing credentials, CPR, and commercial driver license certifications, first aid, and emergency medical technician. For June 2023, the most requested technologies included facility with Microsoft Office, HTML, operation of cash registers and forklifts, and use of personal protective equipment among others.

Of the top 10 employers posting jobs in the East Region on September 1, 2022, 4 included healthcare institutions; others included grocery stores/food marts, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and the University of Tennessee. Reflecting the top occupational groups and those adding the most new jobs, top job postings in the region included healthcare practitioners and technical occupations, management, sales, and transportation and material moving occupations.

Table 28: East Region Job Growth 2015-2022

East TN Region- Occupational Group	May 2015 Jobs	May 2022 Jobs	Change in Jobs	% Change in Jobs	2022 Median Hourly Earnings
Architecture and Engineering	17,920	18,010	90	1%	37.64
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	8,650	10,010	1,360	16%	20.44
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	32,580	32,030	-550	-2%	13.89
Business and Financial Operations	29,970	44,920	14,950	50%	29.97
Community and Social Service	10,620	12,810	2,190	21%	21.13
Computer and Mathematical	14,770	20,140	5,370	36%	36.79
Construction and Extraction	33,010	40,360	7,350	22%	21.36
Educational Instruction and Library	52,210	49,910	-2,300	-4%	23.36
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	1,020	1,240	220	22%	15.67
Food Preparation and Serving Related	96,160	100,350	4,190	4%	11.25
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	67,360	66,810	-550	-1%	29.77
Healthcare Support	28,020	34,130	6,110	22%	14.45
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	43,290	44,620	1,330	3%	22.49
Legal	4,020	4,750	730	18%	37.67
Life, Physical, and Social Science	6,270	7,060	790	13%	30.92
Management	54,140	58,350	4,210	8%	46.57
Office and Administrative Support	157,990	142,010	-15,980	-10%	17.94
Personal Care and Service	25,870	18,570	-7,300	-28%	13.13
Production	92,970	101,030	8,060	9%	18.55
Protective Service	20,850	20,380	-470	-2%	18.83
Sales and Related	98,510	90,560	-7,950	-8%	14.13
Transportation and Material Moving	84,650	102,850	18,200	22%	16.96
Total, All Occupations	980,830	1,020,900	40,070	4%	18.53

Source: TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development, OEWS, May 2015 and May 2022

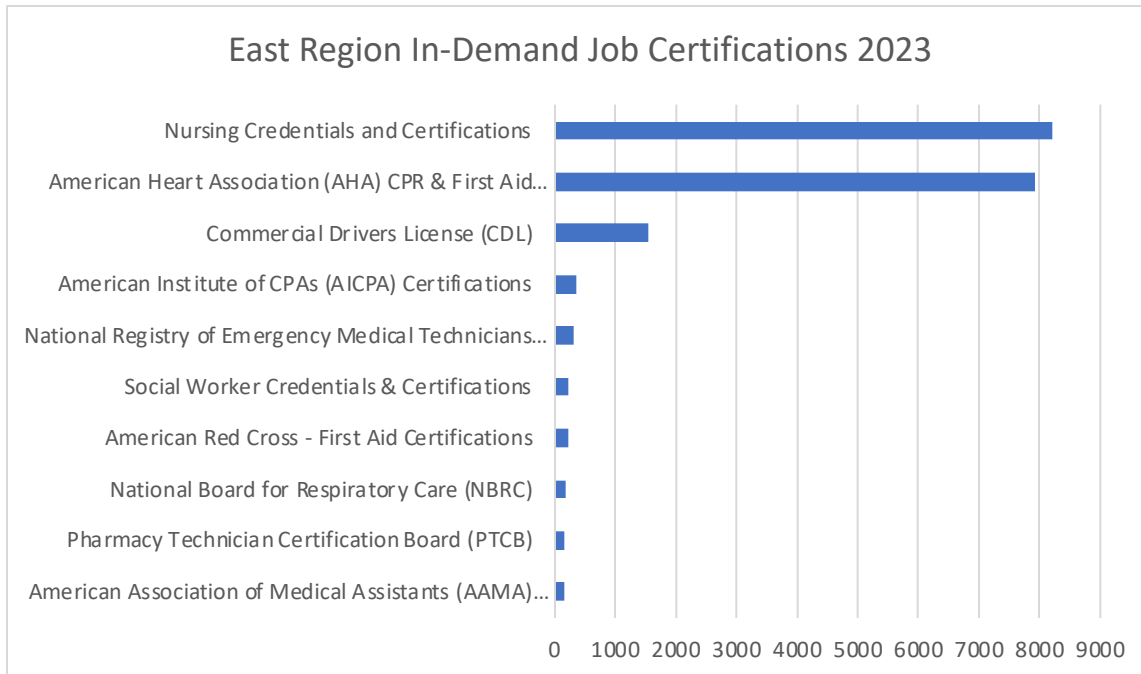


Figure 26

Source: jobs4tn.gov Online Advertised Jobs August 2023

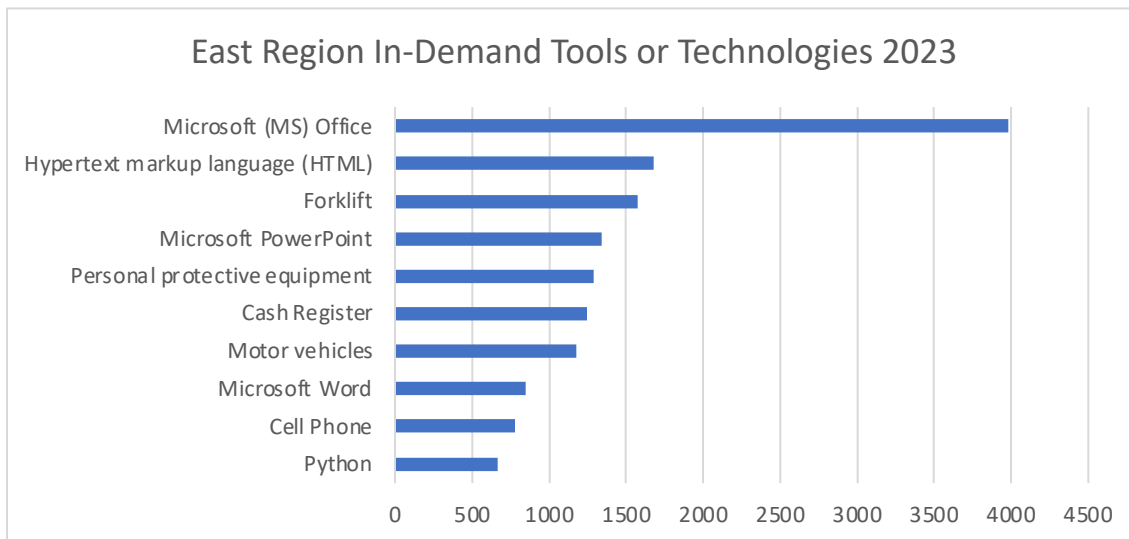


Figure 27

Source: jobs4tn.gov Online Advertised Jobs August 2023

Table 29: Top Employers Posting Jobs East Region

Rank	Employer Name	Job Openings
1	Covenant Health	1,189
2	Ballad Health	845
3	Food City	755
4	Oak Ridge National Laboratory	668
5	HCA Healthcare, Inc.	498
6	Community Health Systems, Inc.	426
7	The University of Tennessee System	403
8	The University of Tennessee Knoxville	360
9	McDonald's Corporation	317
10	Weigel's Farm Stores, Inc.	315

Source: Online advertised jobs data

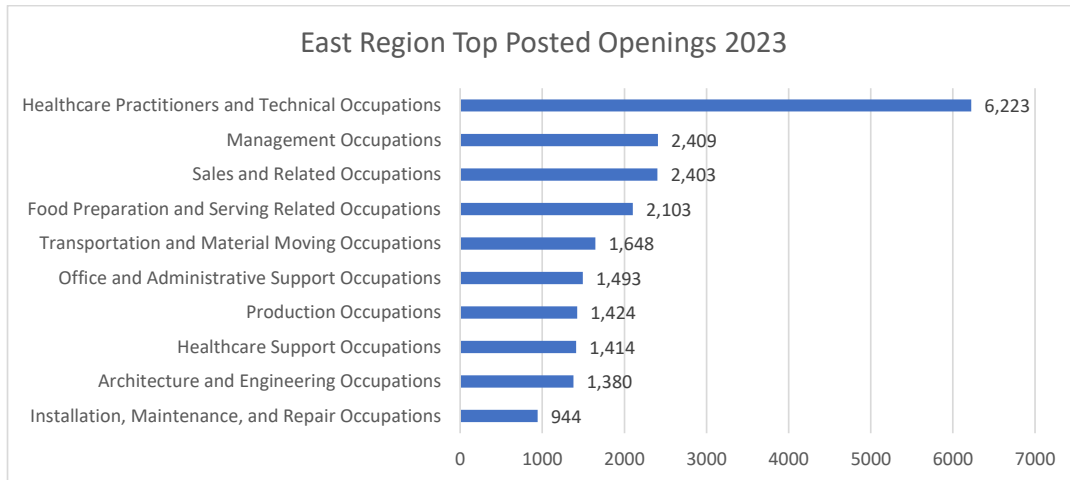


Figure 28

Source: jobs4tn.gov Online Advertised Jobs, August 2023

Table 30: East Region Labor Force 2021

	Southeast LWDA	Northeast LWDA	East LWDA	East Region	State Total
Total Population 2021	670,253	519,112	1,273,561	2,462,926	6,968,351
Total Population 2022	679,446	525,455	1,292,014	2,496,915	7,051,339
Male Population 2021	324,386	254,190	614,303	1,192,879	3,418,920
Female Population 2021	335,901	261,261	635,270	1,232,432	3,595,814
Labor Force Participation Rate 2021 (5-Year Estimate)	57.88%	53.80%	59.15%	56.90%	57.30%
Labor Force Participation Rate 2022 (5-Year Estimate)	57.40%	53.10%	59.80%	56.80%	58.60%
Annual Average Unemployment Rate 2021 Percent	4.60%	4.30%	4.10%	4.30%	4.40%
Annual Average Unemployment Rate 2022 Percent	3.10%	3.30%	2.70%	3.00%	3.20%
Educational Attainment 25 Years and Over (2021) Some College Or Higher - Percent	57.42%	52.23%	55.39%	55.00%	58.53%
Poverty Estimate, All Ages, Percent (2021)	18.82%	16.20%	11.01%	15.30%	14.30%
Percentage of Unemployed with a Disability (2021)	16.17%	18.63%	17.67%	17.50%	17.80%
Percent of Those Not in the Labor Force with a Disability (2021)	36.56%	39.82%	36.12%	37.50%	31.10%

Sources: TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development, WIR²ED Division, LAUS, and U.S. Census Bureau, ACS Five Year Estimates.

Table 31: Educational Attainment 2021

Educational Attainment	East Region White Only	East Region Black Only	East Region Hispanic or Latino Only	Statewide White Only	Statewide Black Only	Statewide Hispanic or Latino Only
Population 25 years and over	1,535,079	94,508	52,723	3,701,360	725,820	194,222
High school graduate only	505,676	33,516	16,786	1,171,517	247,651	54,356
Percent high school graduate only	32.94%	35.46%	31.84%	31.65%	34.12%	27.99%
High school graduate or higher	1,358,277	82,183	18,388	3,317,421	636,892	125,079
Percent high school graduate or higher	88.48%	86.96%	34.88%	89.63%	87.75%	64.40%
Bachelor degree or higher	404,399	17,948	8,511	1,114,827	159,001	33,770
Percent bachelor degree or higher	26.34%	18.99%	16.14%	30.12%	21.91%	17.39%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS Five-year estimates

The labor force participation rate (LFPR) in the East Region in 2022 was 56.8 percent, somewhat lower than the previous year. However, despite this, the state's labor force participation rate increased to 58.6 percent in 2022. The largest decrease for the East Region was in the Northeast LWDA, although it was minimal, following the pattern set by the region. Unemployment rates in all three LWDA's dropped in 2023, as the economy recovered from the pandemic, ending the year with an average rate of 3.4 percent.

The Northeast LWDA reported the lowest rate of educational attainment in 2021, with just under 52.2 percent of the population aged 25 years or more having some college or additional education.

The East Region shows significant disparities among the post high school educational attainment of individuals based on their race or ethnic heritage. These disparities are not unique to the East Region, as they reflect a pattern throughout the whole state. In the East Region, the attainment of a bachelor's degree or higher by individuals who are over the age of 25 and identify their race as White is 26.34 percent, which shows a significant disparity when compared to those who identify their race as Black (18.99) and those who identify their heritage as Hispanic or Latino (16.14).

Table 32: East Region Disability Status of Those in the Labor Force 2021

Area	Civilian Non-institutional Population	Total Labor Force	Total Employed	Employed W/Disability	Employed W/O Disability	Total Unemployed	Unemployed W Disability	Unemployed W/O Disability
Southeast LWDA	397,470	298,266	283,100	19,420	263,680	15,166	2,452	12,714
Northeast LWDA	303,727	215,256	202,102	15,075	187,027	13,154	2,540	10,614
East LWDA	746,863	554,157	526,155	34,177	491,978	28,002	4,958	23,004
East Region	1,448,060	1,067,679	1,011,357	68,672	942,685	56,322	9,950	46,332
Tennessee	4,171,582	3,158,913	2,994,217	189,457	2,804,760	166,696	29,324	135,372

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS Tables Five-Year Estimates

Table 33: East Region Disability Status of Those Not in the Labor Force, 2021

Area	Civilian Non-institutional Population	Total Not in Labor Force	Not in Labor Force W Disability	Not In Labor Force W/O Disability	% W Disability	% W/O Disability
Southeast LWDA	397,470	99,204	36,266	62,938	36.56%	63.44%
Northeast LWDA	303,727	88,471	35,229	53,242	39.82%	60.18%
East LWDA	746,863	192,706	65,906	126,800	34.20%	65.80%
East Region	1,448,060	380,381	137,401	242,980	36.12%	63.88%
Tennessee	4,171,582	1,015,669	315,415	700,254	31.05%	68.95%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS Tables Five-Year Estimates

Poverty rates remained stagnant from 15.2 percent in 2020 to 15.3 percent for the East Region in 2021, as federal aid was targeted to individuals with the greatest needs. The highest poverty rate in the region was in the Southeast LWDA at 18.8 percent. Northeast also reported higher than state average poverty rates in 2021. The 2021 rates should have been lower, given the improving economy; reducing poverty and increasing educational attainment should be key targets of workforce policy in this region.

Following the pattern set by state data, more than a third of those not in the labor force had a disability, with Northeast LWDA having the highest rate. Youth unemployment in the East Region decreased slightly from 10.97 in 2020 to 10.60 in 2021.

Table 34: Youth Unemployment 2021

Area	Labor Force	Unemployment	Rate
Southeast LWDA	44,651	4,898	10.97%
Northeast LWDA	33,478	3,878	11.58%
East LWDA	90,333	9,083	10.06%
East Region	168,462	17,859	10.60%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS Five-Year Estimates

Significant Barriers to Employment

The table below identifies numbers of individuals with significant barriers to employment in the East Region, using the latest data available. The East Region in 2021 had 35 percent of the state's population, with the following higher percent of the populations below compared to its proportion of the state's population:

- 30 percent of the American Indian/ Alaska native population.
- 45 percent of the 55 and over population.
- 34 percent of the prison and jail population.
- 37 percent of the veteran population.
- 37 percent of those below poverty.
- 39 percent of those with disabilities.
- 37 percent of the population of those aging out of foster care.
- In addition, the number of individuals with access to mental health courts is very low. The growing importance of these intervention services is being recognized nationally and needs expansion in Tennessee

Table 35: East TN Region – Significant Barriers to Employment

	Northeast LWDA	East LWDA	Southeast LWDA	West Region	State Total
Number of American Indians or Alaskan Natives alone	909	2440	1303	4652	15,219
Population Ages 15-19	38,528	83,422	41,142	163,092	438,290
Population Ages 20-24	32,305	78,180	39,488	149,973	443,703
Population Ages 55+	181,970	406,657	209,364	797,991	1,784,308
Number of Veterans 2022	39,692	86,556	40,149	166,397	449,163
Number Below Poverty	82,656	171,071	90,152	343,879	927,587
Number With Disability	102,094	187,125	112,242	401,461	1,019,661
Number of Single Parent Families	97,636	214,500	120,576	432,712	1,234,824
Probationers and Parolees 2023	5,953	12,596	4,883	23,432	71,142
Community Correction 2023	356	117	212	685	3,401
Mental Health Court Statistics (FY 2023)	0	0	10	10	96
Limited English Speaking	919	5,879	3,100	9,798	42,056
Foster Care Services - Youth Aged 2022	45	189	64	298	801
Clients In Recovery Courts 2023	65	312	84	461	1,399
Disadvantaged Youth and Adults	61,910	127,625	69,660	259,195	693,590
TANF 24 Months From 2022	176	267	190	633	1,816
Prison Population Total 2023	1,393	1,934	1,943	5,270	19,063
Jail Population Total 2023	2,728	4,558	2,819	10,105	25,696

Sources: **Population:** U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey, 5-year Estimates. **Probationers and Parolees:** Lisa Helton and Adam Dawson, TN Dept of Correction. **Mental Health Court and Recovery Court Statistics:** Rebekah Provost-Emmons, Recovery Court Administrator, Office of Criminal Justice Services, Division of Substance Abuse Services. **Limited English Speaking:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2021. **Foster Care Services:** Dave Aguzzi, Office of Independent Living, TN Dept of Children's Services. **TANF 24 Months from Ending Eligibility:** Lakecia Peterson and Rebecca Mungle, Division of Family Assistance and Child Support, TN Dept of Human Services. **Jail Population:** Jail Summary Report, TN Dept of Correction, Decision Support, <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/correction/documents/JailJune2023.pdf>. **Prison Population:** Linda F. Booker, Tennessee Bed Space and Operating Capacity Report, <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/correction/documents/BedJune2023.pdf>. TEG 01-23 Updated Disadvantaged Youth and Adults Data